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OPPOSITION MOUNTS TO NIC BEAUTY AS ENVOY

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WASHINGTON — Top administration officials and conservative senators yesterday urged President Reagan to reject the credentials of a guerrilla heroine as Nicaragua's new ambassador to the U.S.

The opposition to 39-year-old Nora Astorga has erupted because she played a key role in the 1978 murder of a Nicaraguan general who had close ties to the CIA.

Miss Astorga, a striking beauty, remains a romantic figure from the Sandinista revolution of 1979, and has held top positions in Nicaragua's leftist government.

She has openly acknowledged participating in the entrapment and slaying of Gen. Reynaldo Perez Vega, who was then the second-ranking officer in the National Guard of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

U.S. intelligence officials told The Post she lured him into her bedroom with sexual promises — and then three



PRESIDENT REAGAN

Under pressure.

guerrillas hidden there castrated and decapitated him, cutting off his ears and nose.

Intelligence reports also reached Washington that Miss Astorga played a key role in executions of former Somoza officials after the Sandinista takeover.

Aides to several conservative senators said a letter would be sent to Reagan soon urging that he reject her credentials.

"This is an insult to the United States," said one Capitol Hill aide.

Under rules of international diplomacy, any host country can veto the appointment of an envoy proposed by another government without a break in diplomatic relations.

The pressure on Reagan to reject Miss Astorga is reportedly cen-

tered in the intelligence community, which considered the slain general to be a "colleague."

Conservatives also opposed her because she is a militant leftist who, in her current post as deputy foreign minister, has become an articulate spokesman for the anti-American cause.

In Managua on Tuesday, she charged that "while efforts to achieve peace [in Central America] are under way, Washington is doing everything possible to bring about war."

Miss Astorga, who has four children by two marriages, practiced law in Managua and worked underground for the Sandinistas before openly joining their operations after the 1978 slaying.

Several years ago she said "I was sure I was doing the right thing" in killing the general, which she called an act of "revolutionary justice."